

**Facts About James Buchanan  
15th President of the United States (1857-61)**

Nickname: "Old Buck"

Born: April 23, 1791, Cove Gap (near Mercersburg), Pa.

Education: Dickinson College (graduated 1809)

Profession: Lawyer

Religious Affiliation: Presbyterian

Marriage: None

Political Affiliation: Democrat

Writings: Mr. Buchanan's Administration on the Eve of the Rebellion(1866); Works of James Buchanan (12 vols., 1908-11), ed. by John Bassett Moore

Died: June 1, 1868, near Lancaster, Pa.

Buried: Woodward Hill Cemetery, Lancaster, Pa.

Vice-President: John C. Breckinridge

Cabinet Members:

Secretary of State: Lewis Cass (1857-60); Jeremiah S. Black (1860-61)

Secretary of the Treasury: Howell Cobb (1857-60); Philip F. Thomas (1860-61); John A. Dix (1861)

Secretary of War: John B. Floyd (1857-60); Joseph Holt (1861)

Attorney General: Jeremiah S. Black (1857-60); Edwin M. Stanton (1860-61)

Postmaster General: Aaron V. Brown (1857-59); Joseph Holt (1859-61); Horatio King (1861)

Secretary of the Navy: Isaac Toucey

Secretary of the Interior: Jacob Thompson

1859-1861

Johnston, Albert Sidney

Albert Sidney Johnston, b. Feb. 2, 1803, d. Apr. 6, 1862, was a Confederate general in the U.S. Civil War. He graduated from West Point in 1826 but in 1834 left the U.S. Army to go to Texas. He served as commander of the Texan army (1837-38) and then as secretary of war (1838-40) of the Texas republic. Johnston was recommissioned into the U.S. Army in 1849 and commanded forces in the UTAH WAR (1857-58). In 1861 he joined the Confederacy and was given the impossible task of defending the area between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River. He was killed at the Battle of SHILOH. Although highly regarded by Jefferson DAVIS and others, Johnston died too early to permit a realistic evaluation of his abilities as a general.

Richard M. McMurry

Bibliography: Roland, Charles P., Albert Sidney Johnston: Soldier of Three Republics (1964; repr. 1987).

settlement, of course, was at Heber City, but there were also two small settlements along the Snake Creek, a number of families at Center Creek, some at Charleston, some in Round Valley or Wallsburg, a small cluster of houses at the Sessions spring and a few at a sheep ranch of Melvin Ross, afterwards known as Hailstone's Ranch, about eight miles north of Heber.

The first county road was established on March 3, 1862, and commenced at the Provo River below Manning's (southwest of the town of Charleston) and ran in a northerly direction following the old immigrant trail through the valley, passing by Melvin Ross' ranch and terminating at the northern boundary of the county known then as the Ross Summit.

Another county road was established April 26, 1862 and ran between Heber City and Center Creek and on to a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon.

Four school districts were also designated in April, 1862. They were district No. 1 to include Heber City; No. 2 at the Center Creek settlement; No. 3, the lower settlement on Snake Creek and No. 4 the upper Snake Creek settlement.

The first valuation of property for the county took place in 1862, and according to the report of John Harvey, assessor and collector, the property value in the valley was \$48,350.

Spring came late in 1862 and it was May 4 before any plowing could be done in the valley. The Church leaders who went to Salt Lake City for general conference sessions in April had to travel on snowshoes to get through the more than four feet of snow still on the ground.

Early in 1862 John H. Van Wagoner finished building a gristmill at Snake Creek's lower settlement. Even though there was no way to separate the smut from the wheat and some of the flour made was very dark, the people were still glad for this added improvement. At times that year the river was so high people couldn't get across to the mill. However, Henry McMullin, a ship builder from Maine, built a boat and the grist was taken back and forth on the boat. It was this same Mr. McMullin that built the first sawmill in the valley. It was owned by William M. Wall and James Adams and located in Center Creek Canyon.

Until the sawmill was built, people had used hand-prepared timber for all their furniture and other needs. Now with cut lumber available the rough furniture was quickly discarded.

1861 Many of the people were able to obtain good wagons from the soldiers in Johnston's Army. The army had camped near Utah Lake until the outbreak of the Civil War in the East. They were summoned to return to the Northern Army's camps and so they sold some of their wagons and their supplies very cheaply rather than carry them back east. Many in Wasatch County obtained the wagons as the troops passed through the valley on their eastern trip.

1861